

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 ACDA-12 MCE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2679
INFO CHUSMTM DHAHRAN
USMTM/DCR RIYADH
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5145

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA 5)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SA
SUBJECT: PRESENTATION OF LOA FOR F-15 SALE

1. AMBASSADOR AND ERICH VON MARBOD, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEFENSE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AGENCY, CALLED ON SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER PRINCE SULTAN ON JULY 10. MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-MANSOURI, USMTM CHIEF BRIG, GENERAL CARL CATHEY, DIRECTOR OF PLANS, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF PLANS AND OPERATIONS MAJOR GENERAL JAMES AHMANN, AND EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR.

2. VON MARBOD MADE OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF LOA FOR 60 F-15'S. PRINCE SULTAN THANKED VON MARBOD FOR LOA, SAYING THAT THIS ACT WAS IMPORTANT SYMBOL OF THE CLOSE AND WARM FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID LOA WOULD BE CONSIDERED AND APPROVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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3. SULTAN SAID HE HAD TWO OR THREE MINOR CHANGES HE WOULD LIKE MADE IN THE LOA. IN NOTE 19 OF ARTICLE 2, HE REQUESTED THAT WORDING BE CHANGED TO READ, "THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA WILL WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ECT." VON MARBOD SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO MAKE THAT CHANGE.

4. SULTAN THEN SUGGESTED THAT PARAGRAPH A3 OF ARTICLE 22 BE CHANGED SO THAT REPROGRAMMING WOULD BE JOINT US-SAUDI EFFORT. VON MARBOD SAID THAT IF PRINCE SULTAN WAS SUGGESTING A CHANGE IN LANGUAGE, HE REGRETTED THAT HE COULD NOT AGREE TO THAT. US MUST RETAIN CONTROL OVER REPROGRAMMING, VON MARBOD EXPLAINED THAT U.S. HAD HAD DIFFICULT CHOICE BETWEEN NOT GIVING THE ALQ-135 TO ANYBODY AND GIVING IT WHILE RETAINING CONTROL OF MOST SENSITIVE PORTIONS OF IT. F-15 IS A WEAPON SYSTEM OF TOMORROW AND IT WILL BE IN USE FOR AT LEAST 20 YEARS. OUR POLICY ON GIVING TECHNOLOGY IS CONSTANTLY BEING REVIEWED AND IT CAN ALWAYS BE CHANGED. HOWEVER, FOR THE MOMENT, WE ARE NOT GIVING THIS PARTICULAR TECHNOLOGY TO ANYBODY. ONE WAY PERHAPS TO SOLVE PROBLEM SAG HAS IS TO BRIEF RSAF PERSONNEL ON ECM.

5. SULTAN SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED OFFER OF BRIEFING. HOWEVER, HE WISHED TO HAVE FOOTNOTE ADDED TO THIS PROVISION OF LOA TO EFFECT THAT USG WILL GIVE SAUDI ARABIA THIS CAPABILITY WHEN THE USG GIVES IT TO ANY OTHER COUNTRY. HE DID NOT WANT TO TAKE U.S. SECRETS BUT HE WOULD LIKE THIS CAPABILITY WHEN U.S. DOES FIND IT POSSIBLE TO RELEASE INFORMATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT A SENTENCE BE ADDED TO ARTICLE 22 A(3) TO THIS EFFECT. DISCUSSION THEN FOLLOWED AS TO APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE OF SENTENCE. AT SUGGESTION OF AMBASSADOR, FOLLOWING TEXT WAS AGREED ON:
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BEGIN TEXT. WITHIN LIMITS OF USG DISCLOSURE POLICY, RSAF PERSONNEL WILL BE BRIEFED ON THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF ECM EQUIPMENT. IT IS FURTHER RECOGNIZED THAT THE ITEMS INVOLVED REPRESENT THE MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO THE USG AND UNDER PRESENT POLICY WILL NOT BE RELEASED TO ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, UPON ITS RELEASE TO ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT AT ANY FUTURE TIME, RECOGNIZING THAT SUCH AS A MATTER OF POLICY IS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS, CONSIDERATION WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE GIVEN ON A PRIORITY BASIS TO ITS RELEASE TO THE SAG. END TEXT. SULTAN CONGRATULATED AMBASSADOR FOR HAVING FOUND DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION SATISFYING CONCERNS OF SAG WITHOUT GIVING ANYTHING AT ALL ON BEHALF OF USG.

6. SULTAN THEN REQUESTED IN PARAGRAPH A(6) OF ARTICLE 22 THAT PROVISION BE MADE TO KEEP SAG POSTED ON ALL CHANGES IN F-15 EVEN IN ITS USE BY U.S. ITSELF SO THAT SAG WOULD HAVE OPTION OF MAKING CHANGES IN SAUDI AIRCRAFT. VON MARBOD SAID THAT SAME PROBLEM AND SAME CONSIDERATION PREVAILED IN THIS PARAGRAPH AS IN PARAGRAPH A(3). HE ADDED THAT SAME SOLUTION COULD ALSO BE FOUND. SULTAN ACCEPTED SOLUTION AND IT WAS AGREED THAT LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO THAT ADDED

TO A(3) WOULD BE ADDED TO A(6).

7. SULTAN REISED AS LAST POINT POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING CAPABILITY OF AIRCRAFT TO CARRY MORE BOMBS. HE SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT F-15 WAS FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, WHEN IT BECOMES POSSIBLE TO INCREASE CAPABILITY, SAG WISHED TO DO SO. VON MARBOD SAID THAT SAG COULD REST ASSURED THAT U.S. WILL BE WORKING WITH RSAF ON CAPABILITY OF AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, WE ARE UNABLE TO PUT INTO LOA COMMITMENT TO INCREASE CAPABILITY OF AIRCRAFT. WHILE SOME OF THESE THINGS WOULD BE DONE ROUTINELY AND AUTOMATICALLY, WE CANNOT GUARANTEE INCREASED CAPABILITY IN FUTURE. SULTAN SAID THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO PUT THIS IN LOA. HE REQUESTED INSTEAD THAT U.S. SEND NOTE CONCERNING INCREASED
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CAPABILITY IN FUTURE. VON MARBOD SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO MAKE COMMITMENT TO SEND SUCH COMMITMENT. ANY SUSTMES THAT ARE DEVELOPED IN FUTURE WOULD BE CONSIDERED UNDER OUR RELEASE POLICY. HE RECALLED THAT SULTAN HAD TOLD HIM DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA THAT SAG DID NOT WANT CRIPPLED OR CASTRATED AIRPLANE. HE ASSURED SULTAN NOW ONCE AGAIN THAT HE WAS NOT GOING TO GET CRIPPLED AIRPLANE. HOWEVER, NONE OF US CAN SAY WHAT THIS AIRPLANE WILL LOOK LIKE IN FUTURE. SULTAN SAID THIS POINT WAS NOT IMPORTANT AND IT WAS NOT GOING TO AFFECT LOA PROCESS. SAG MAY ADDRESS THIS POINT IN LETTER IN FUTURE. IN ANY EVENT, HE WISHED TO ASSURE VON MARBOD THAT FRIENDSHIP OF SAUDI ARABIA REMAINED STRONG.

8. VON MARDOB SAID THAT LOA WAS ONLY BEGINNING NOT END OF F-15 SALE. PLENTY OF HARD WORK BEFORE US NOW TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT SYSTEM WILL BE SUCCESS. SULTAN SAID THAT WITH THE HELP AND COOPERATION OF U.S. SAUDI ARABIA WOULD DO EVERYTHING IT HAD TO DO.

9. SULTAN ASKED WHEN LOA MUST BE SIGNED. VON MARBOD SAID IT MUST BE SIGNED BY END OF AUGUST. US FISCAL YEAR ENDS ON SEPTEMBER 30. IF SAG IS NOT GOING TO SIGN LOA DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR, THEN U.S. WOULD WANT POSSIBILITY OF CONCLUDING ARMS AGREEMENT WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR. SULTAN SAID THAT LOA WOULD BE SIGNED IN TIME BUT THAT IN UNLIKELY EVENT IT WAS NOT, SAUDI ARABIA WOULD HOPE THAT PAKISTAN COULD TAKE SAUDI ARABIA'S PLACE DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR.

DANIELS

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TAGS: MASS, SA, US
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Type: TE
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